

Chinese Author Pai Hsien Yung: "Homosexuals are human beings after all. . ."

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THIS WEEK:

"AIDS Panic"
Defense Unravels
in Murder Trial

Britt Sweeps
Gay Vote

The 1987 Boston
Gay & Lesbian Film
Festival

GayCommunityNews

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New York case watched closely by gay rights activists

‘AIDS Panic’ Defense Fails in Murder Trial

By Nancy De Luca

MINEOLA, NY — Lorenzo D. Owens, who admittedly killed Kenneth Grice after having sex with him because Grice told him he had AIDS, has pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter. The case has been closely watched by gay rights advocates because the defense argued Owens' action was an understandable response to AIDS exposure.

According to courtroom testimony presented last month, Owens, 19, and Grice, 22, had a prior sexual relationship. On April 17 Grice, who had been discharged from the army for having a positive HIV test, offered Owens who was homeless, a place to stay for the weekend. On April 20, according to Owens, Grice initiated sex with him, and the two engaged in unprotected anal intercourse.

Owens told police he became outraged when Grice told him he had AIDS right after they had sex. In his videotaped confession, Owens said that when he learned he had been exposed to AIDS, he told Grice, "You've got AIDS! Why don't you treat me better.

I'm involved with a young lady.... Why do you want to do this to me?" Then, he "just burst out in a rage," got a knife from the kitchen, and grabbed Grice by the neck. "I cut his throat," said Owens. Later he wrote with a crayon on the mirror and a door: "We hate homosexuals. Move out."

Grice was also robbed by Owens, who took several cameras and radios and later sold them. Owens surrendered to police on May 10, 1986, and was charged with second-degree murder and petty larceny.

John R. Lewis, who is Owens' attorney, argued that Owens' behavior was a justifiable response to exposure to the AIDS virus, and said that his client was "reacting to the pronouncement of death." Owens tested negative for exposure to the virus after the killing.

David Wertheimer, executive director of the New York City Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project, characterizes Lewis' strategy as a variation of the "homosexual

panic" defense. Such an argument had been used recently in New York to gain the acquittal of a man who killed a priest (wearing regular street clothes) after engaging in sex with him. In this case, the defense arguments were based primarily on legitimizing Owens' fear of AIDS and the panic which ensued when he found out he had been exposed.

According to Wertheimer, the prosecutor, Assistant District Attorney William Dempsey, seemed reluctant to attack this defense head-on, perhaps because of its recent success. Courtroom observers from the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project said it was clear Owens understood the modes of transmission of AIDS, and that, knowing the risks involved, certainly had equal responsibility to take measures to protect himself.

The case for the defense unravelled due to the testimony of Owens' girlfriend, Alicia Thompson. Alicia, who was 16 at the time of the killing, testified in court as to Owens' emotional state on the night of the killing. She later met

with the D.A. and told him that she was very upset that she might have AIDS because she and Owens had unprotected intercourse hours after the killing took place. The D.A. asked for permission to have Thompson testify again. The judge, Richard Delin of Nassau County Court, cleared the courtroom of the jury, but not the press, and heard the D.A.'s arguments. One of the court observers said that when Thompson's story came to light, "I thought the defense attorney would melt right into the floor."

Continued on page 3

Delin, however, initially seemed reluctant to admit the testimony, and adjourned the court for the weekend. Lewis, the defense attorney, knew the Thompson story would appear in the papers over the weekend, and since the jury was not sequestered, planned on obtaining a mistrial on the basis of Thompson's inadmissible testimony becoming public knowledge. When the court assembled on Monday, the judge decided the Thompson testimony would be permitted, and the

Mass. activists cite lack of medical care for PWAs 'inside'

Early Parole Considered for PWAs

By Martin Heggestad

BOSTON — Parole and prison officials, prisoners' rights advocates, and AIDS activists in Massachusetts are grappling with the issues raised by the possibility of early parole for prisoners who have AIDS. Activists cite the lack of adequate medical care in prisons among their primary motivations for seeking early parole. Prison officials, who appear willing to consider early release, say they are also concerned that people with AIDS (PWAs) who are released may commit "crimes."

According to Lorraine Carli, spokesperson for the state Parole Board, three prisoners with AIDS have been paroled from state prisons, out of a total of 11 PWAs who have been incarcerated in the state system. Two were paroled according to standard policy, after having served two-thirds of their sentences. Both entered hospitals upon being released.

The other prisoner was released, early in August 1986, under the Parole Board's "special consideration" policy. He had served one-third of this sentence. He was subsequently arrested for robbery and returned to prison. He died in February in the prison system's unit in Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.

The "special consideration" policy has been in place for some time and is used mainly for terminally ill prisoners, according to Carli. It allows the Parole Board to adjust the eligibility of prisoners for parole in "rare, unusual circumstances." Of 3,800 parole releases last year, 16 were through the "special consideration" policy.

Carli said that future parole decisions for PWAs will be made on a "case by case basis." She said the possibility that a released prisoner will commit another "crime" must take precedence over concern for the welfare of the prisoners.

Dianne McLaughlin, a paralegal

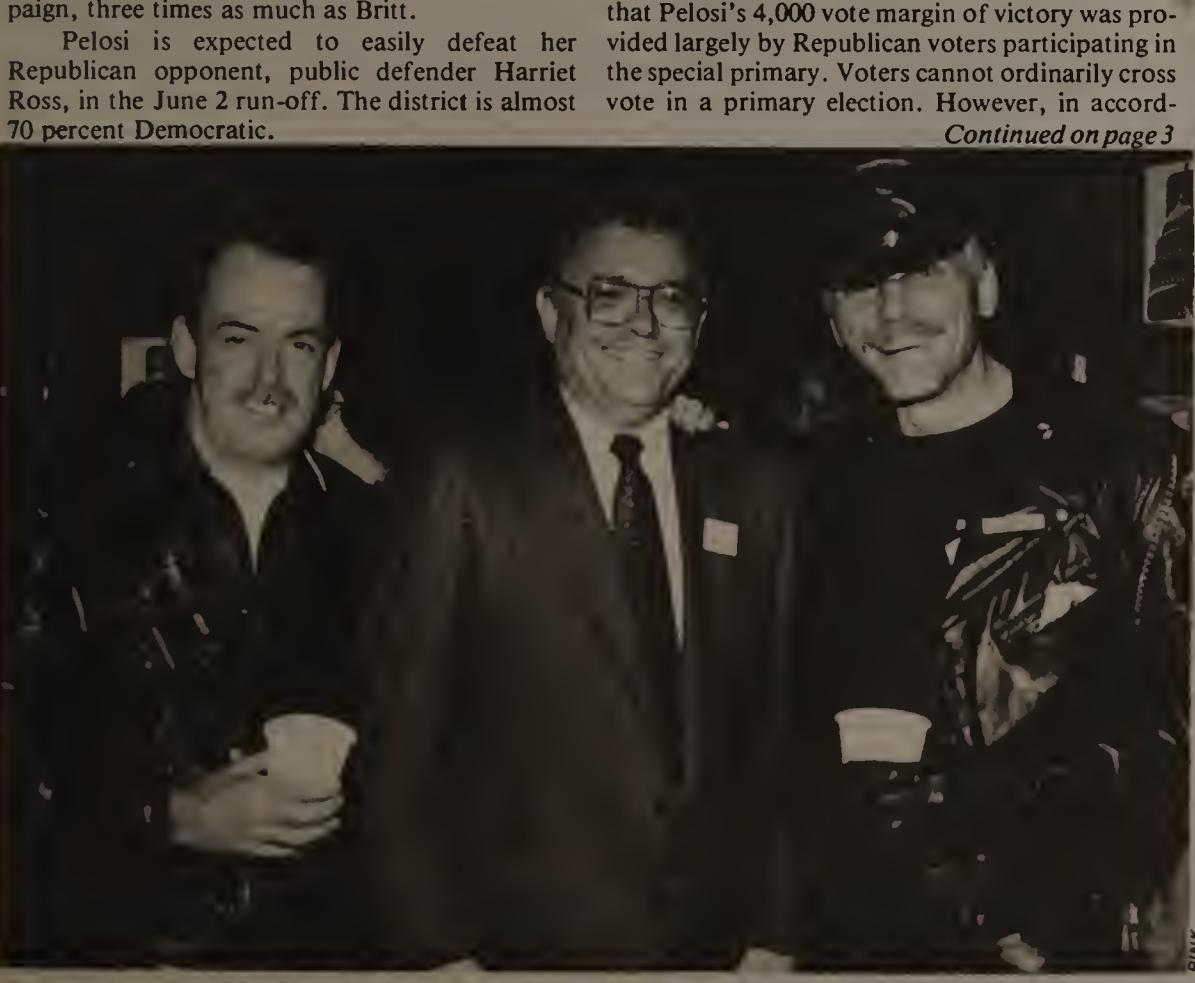
at Massachusetts Correctional Legal Services, represented the prisoner released under the "special consideration" policy. She said she is "cautiously optimistic" the Board will continue early parole of PWAs. She added that while the Board may be motivated by humanitarian considerations in dealing with PWAs, the Corrections Dept. may advocate special handling of PWAs for financial reasons. She noted that the system will become over-burdened as the number of PWAs in prison grows.

Carli could not say whether the high costs associated with AIDS in prisons plays any role in the considerations of early release for PWAs.

Denise McWilliams, director of the AIDS Law Project at Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), said she strongly supports early parole for prisoners with AIDS in appropriate cases. She stated that the absence of adequate medical care and the "overwhelmingly unsanitary conditions" in Massachusetts state prisons render the system unable to meet the needs of prisoners with AIDS. She also noted that "the physical safety of prisoners with AIDS cannot be assured" when they are housed with the general prisoner population, as they are subject to harassment from both guards and other prisoners.

The welfare of prisoners with AIDS once they are released is also a concern. Laurie Novick, Coordinator of Client Advocates at the Boston AIDS Action Committee, said that paroled prisoners are in principle entitled to the same services as other PWAs. However, they may encounter more problems in finding adequate housing and meeting other needs.

Novick also criticized the Corrections Dept. for not yet having formulated an adequate AIDS policy.



Britt on the campaign trail in a San Francisco south-of-Market leather bar, the Eagle. From left, George Burgess, head of an AIDS emergency fund; Britt; Tom "Mr. Leather Daddy" Rogers, an attorney for people with AIDS.

news notes

quotes of the week

"Many staff in royal service are homosexual. In fact, the Queen Mother has been known to shout down to the kitchen, 'Is there any old queen down there who can bring an old Queen up here a gin and tonic?'"

—Peter Russell, a former member of the household staff of Buckingham Palace, in *At Home with the Royal Family*, the book he co-authored with James Paul, according to the Boston Globe.

"Mayor Ray Flynn has just announced that he plans to recruit gay cops. Such a policy is a perversion of affirmative action.... First of all, there are undoubtedly many gay police officers on the force already. Like most people with a sense of discrimination, they have simply not chosen to make a public issue of their sex lives. But this is not enough for the mayor. Now he insists on recruiting those who are indiscreet enough to make a public spectacle of their sexuality."

"This policy is a morally bankrupt response to the gay political bloc. Once he stoops to this tactic, what comes next? Special treatment for transvestites?"

—An editorial in the March 26 publication of the Bay State Banner, a Boston-area Black newspaper.

clark formulating aids policy

WORCESTER, MA — Clark University's Affirmative Action Office, Dean of Students, and Health Services are in the process of formulating an AIDS non-discrimination policy, according to a newsletter published by the American College Personnel Association. Last year, the school's Executive Board of Trustees approved the inclusion of sexual or affectional preference in the school's Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Statement.

—Marc Stein

LaRouchites solicit funds for aids from motorists

SEABROOK, NH — Four LaRouchites followers were recently seen stopping cars here at the intersection of Routes 1 and 107. According to the New Hampshire Seacoast, the LaRouchites told motorists the LaRouchites organization needed their contributions to continue its fight against AIDS.

Police asked the fundraisers to move after discovering the group did not have a town permit to solicit money.

—Stephanie Poggi

moving violations benefit run

BOSTON — Moving Violations, one of New England's largest women's motorcycle clubs, is hosting its second annual benefit run on May 30. Proceeds from this year's run will go to the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, which provides services to women who have been raped and their friends/family.

The run will consist of a 100-mile round trip motorcycle ride to Salisbury Beach. Anyone interested in riding or in sponsoring riders should call Maria at (617) 666-2143 or BARCC at (617) 492-RAPE.

Moving Violations hopes to raise \$5,000 for the rape crisis center.

—Stephanie Poggi

less than perfectly frank

BOSTON — Speaking last month at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, U.S. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) pledged to change immigration law that discriminates against gay people and expressed unwavering support for affirmative action for gay police officers in this state. Neither was he shy about thanking the lesbian/gay community for effectively lobbying other legislators on gay/lesbian issues, according to the Boston Globe.

In answer to a pointed question during the discussion period at the end, however, Frank was a little less than perfectly frank. A man in the audience asked whether Frank believed the public interest is damaged when an elected official whose sexual orientation becomes a public issue evades the question. "I'm trying to think of a way to evade a direct answer to that," responded Frank, to the amusement of some audience members. "If we were in a position where there were no costs to coming out, then it would be a non-issue.... With regard to people being gay or lesbian, we are in a transition period."

—Stephanie Poggi

will hiam & gold allow insurers to test for hiv?

BOSTON — State Insurance Commissioner Peter Hiam and Consumer Affairs Secretary Paula Gold have publicly supported the Insurance Division's policy banning HIV testing by insurance companies. But their testimony submitted on April 1 to the legislature's joint committee on health care makes it evident they are reconsidering the state's policy.

"We believe that testing has severe disadvantages to consumers as presently conducted by insurance companies," stated Hiam and Gold in joint testimony. "These problems, which include subjective underwriting standards, lack of privacy protection, lack of counseling and lack of oversight of the quality of tests, could be minimized by appropriate statutory and regulatory provisions."

Hiam and Gold also made clear distinctions between health and life insurance, validating activists' concerns that the Insurance Division may soon allow testing for life insurance policies. "Health insurance presents different financial implications, and its societal importance places it clearly apart from life insurance.... [Banning HIV] testing of applicants... can lead to more irreversible economic consequences for life insurers than health insurers."

Hiam and Gold's testimony also differs significantly from Hiam's testimony last year in support of a bill which would prohibit the use of HIV tests by insurers. This year's testimony only supported legislation which would force insurers to comply with the Insurance division's HIV policy. "We believe that the commissioner should be given express statutory authority to prohibit or permit life insurers to use HIV antibody tests for life insurance underwriting, after a required determination by the commissioner of a financial need on the part of the industry and after the adoption of regulations [which would establish guidelines for HIV testing]," stated Hiam and Gold.

—Kim Westheimer

edge: ny group for disabled gay people

NEW YORK — A new organization of lesbian and gay disabled people has formed here. EDGE (Education in a Disabled Gay Environment) is currently holding meetings at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in Manhattan. The group is seeking new members. For more information, contact Cook Friedman, at (212) 246-3811, ex. 292.

—Stephanie Poggi



Susan D. Fleischmann

BWMT marches in Boston Pride '84

black and white men together '87

MILWAUKEE, WI — The National Association of Black and White Men Together (NABWMT) invites you to join its seventh annual convention, June 28 to July 5.

Scheduled speakers include Thomas Kochman, author of *Black and White Styles in Conflict*; Joseph Beam, editor of *In the Life: A Black Gay Anthology*; and Calvin Hernton, author of *Sex and Racism in America*. Also scheduled is a discussion of the development and enactment of Wisconsin's gay/lesbian rights law, the only such statewide law in the U.S.

Among the social activities planned is a night at Summerfest, the foremost music festival in the Midwest. There will also be a boat trip on Lake Michigan and a BWMT talent show.

The convention will be headquartered at the Park East Hotel, overlooking Lake Michigan. Hotel reservations must be made separately from convention registration, which is available at \$65 through April 30. After May 1, the fee is \$75. All meal functions and social activities are included in the price.

For more information, contact NABWMT Convention '87, Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212, or phone (414) 449-2454.

—Stephanie Poggi



Cover of Gay Pied Hebdo, French gay magazine

french retract ban on gay magazine

PARIS — France's conservative government has backed away from banning *Gay Pied Hebdo*, a French gay magazine, according to a report in *Der Spiegel* of West Germany.

The government had decided in late March to ban from public display and distribution four heterosexual softcore sex magazines in addition to *Gay Pied Hebdo*. The latter features gay male pin-up photos along with letters, reviews and news. The four heterosexual magazines are *Penthouse*, *New Look*, *Photo* and *L'Echo des Savanes*.

The announcement was met with a storm of protest and ridicule, according to Reuters news service. President Francois Mitterrand, a Socialist, joined the protest, saying, "I am naturally in phase with all those who like liberty. It is up to each person to decide for themselves." Interior Minister Charles Pasqua defended the ban, saying, "Where encouragement of depravity is concerned and minors I don't intend to be tolerant or permissive."

According to *Der Spiegel*, the government changed its mind about *Gay Pied Hebdo* when warned by gay protesters that those gay people who support the conservatives might switch their loyalties.

—Stephanie Poggi

globe faults scondras for coors ban

BOSTON — Will McDonough attacked gay City Councillor David Sondras for persuading Fenway Park to stop selling Coors beer. Fenway Park is a local sports stadium and home of the Red Sox.

McDonough, who called Sondras "a zero" and "absurd" in his column, told *GCN* that he did so because the City Councillor "is abusing his power, just looking for publicity.... And what has he ever done for Fenway Park?" McDonough said he had never met Sondras.

Coors is the target of boycotts by labor, gay and lesbian, Black and Latino and women's groups for its discriminatory labor practices and support of ultraright causes.

Coors Co. Chairman William Coors once said that Blacks "lack the intellectual capacity to succeed." Joseph Coor's Free Congress Foundation recently held a conference on "Hope and Homosexuality" to consider how religious conversion might "straighten out" gay people.

McDonough said that the Coors record "doesn't bother me. I drink it. I like it. I like Coors people."

—Chris Bull

A Massachusetts first

Judge Rules Gay Bashing a Rights Violation

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — A district court judge has ruled that Massachusetts civil rights law can be used to prosecute gay bashers. The April 3 decision will be appealed before a jury in Boston Municipal Court.

"An attack on an individual because of his or her sexual orientation constitutes an interference with the right of personal privacy," stated Judge Gordon A. Martin, Jr., in an opinion filed by the court. The opinion found Jeffrey A. Nelson and Jonathan S. Miller guilty of assault and battery and in violation of state civil rights law. Each defendant was sentenced to two-and-one-half years probation, fined \$140 and required to perform twenty hours of community service work and to receive alcohol counseling if deemed necessary.

Martin is the first state judge to take Massachusetts civil rights law into account when sentencing accused gay bashers. The law has generally been used to sentence people who have committed racial attacks. A person found guilty of assault and battery and in violation of civil rights law is subject to a greater penalty than someone

who is found guilty only of assault and battery.

A decision by a state district court judge technically has no value as a legal precedent. But Martin told *GCN* his opinion will be useful for the bar and the [legal] community. In addition, Martin's decision gives credence to lesbian and gay activists, members of the Boston Police Department's Community Disorders Unit and the Attorney General's Office who have all claimed that Massachusetts civil rights law should protect lesbians and gay men.

Nelson and Miller were accused of assaulting an openly gay man, Jason Schneider, on September 17. According to testimony given in court, Nelson and Miller approached Schneider near his home and asked if he was a faggot. Nelson struck Schneider five or six times and Miller knocked off Schneider's glasses. Following the attack, Schneider heard one of the defendants call him queer. According to Schneider and the Boston police, both defendants appeared drunk.

"This is no random act of violence," said Martin in court.

"They violated his rights to privacy and free association by assaulting him."

Nelson's lawyer, June Jenson, said her client was appealing the guilty verdict for assault and battery and the civil rights violation. But "obviously the civil rights violation is the real issue here," said Jenson.

In a motion filed in court, Jenson referred to Massachusetts anti-sodomy laws as evidence that the state does not provide civil rights protection for lesbians and gay men. "Massachusetts implicitly [sic.] shuns homosexuality. See MGL c 272, Section 34 outlawing sodomy," wrote Jenson. "There has been no evidence put forth by the Commonwealth showing that Mr. Nelson or Mr. Miller were motivated by malice towards homosexuals," added Jenson.

Miller's lawyer, Richard J. Murray, questioned whether evidence existed to prove whether Schneider is gay. "The Commonwealth ... has introduced testimony through the alleged victim that he is 'gay.' The alleged victim did not offer any further explanation of the meaning of the term 'gay'

... Webster's Third New International Dictionary offers several meanings for the term 'gay.'

Even if the Commonwealth could prove that Schneider is gay, noted Murray, he still would not be entitled to protection as a member of a constitutionally protected class.

Schneider said he was delighted by Martin's decision. "I'm glad that the court system acknowledged that gay people get beat up because they're gay," he said. "I was surprised the judge's sentence was so lenient," Schneider added.

New fundraising group kicks off GRGRF's Story

"All we want to do is throw a good party and cut some checks."

—Larry Basile, owner of the Boston gay bar, Fritz, and member of the newly-formed Grass Roots Gay Rights Fund.

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Two gay men attending last year's \$150-a-plate Human Rights Campaign Fund Dinner noted the absence of most of their friends. They say they realized that many people could not afford to attend the fundraising dinner for political candidates who are supportive of lesbian and gay rights legislation.

Larry Basile and Jon Goode decided on that evening to find a way to produce less expensive fundraising events. "We thought, let's get as many people as we can," said Goode, who is the owner of Body-Body, a chic Boston-based clothing store.

The Grass Roots Gay Rights Fund (GRGRF) resulted from Goode and Basile's conversation. Currently GRGRF consists of eight gay men, a number of whom own or manage businesses in the Boston area. According to Goode, the group is open to women. "We originally solicited a couple of gals [to join] and nothing gelled. It was a matter of time and logistics. We're attempting to get some bar gals [to join]. . . . Anyone who wants to can join."

Basile, who acknowledged that he has been "very fortunate" in his ability to make money, said GRGRF is a way to "put something back" into the community. "Because of the AIDS issue society has targeted gay groups," said Basile. "I want to respond in a concrete way."

GRGRF plans to donate money to gay rights organizations. Such organizations are defined as groups which actively work on litigation and education in gay-related areas or any group that has as their primary

goal defending gay men and lesbians.

No formal application process is in place for groups seeking money from GRGRF. While the group welcomes input into their decisions, they "don't have a mechanism [to gather such input] other than that most everyone in the city knows someone [in GRGRF]," said Goode.

Lesbians and gay men who "haven't been involved traditionally" in lesbian and gay politics, will be attracted to GRGRF events, according to Basile. "Lots of people go to discos who aren't politically oriented. These people aren't getting hit [for financial support of the gay rights movement] — to a degree they aren't aware."

To reach "the uninvolved," GRGRF is putting out the word that they are not a political organization. They want to stay removed from electoral politics and internal politics within the gay community. For example, said Goode, GRGRF would not be likely to fund a gay Republican or gay Democratic group. Goode acknowledged that it is "difficult to remain non-political" since they will be making decisions about what types of groups to fund. "We're liberal because we're funding rights groups," said Goode.

The organization's first event, "The Politics of Joy, Serious Fun," will be an April 11 dance party at the Cyclorama in Boston. Tickets are \$12 in advance and \$15 at the door. Money from the event will go to local and national organizations involved in "gay rights litigation and education." Tickets are on sale at Body-Body, Fritz, Box Office Video, Chaps, The Metropolitan Health Club, Paradise, Ramrod, 1270 and Odeon. Groups being considered to receive money from this event include Boston's Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders and Lambda Legal Defense Fund.

Britt Loses Race, Wins Gay Vote

Continued from page 1

ance with Calif. law, a joint Democratic-Republican primary was held because the 5th District seat was vacated before the term expired. "There is no question in my mind that we would have won had this been a Democratic primary. She carried the conservatives and we carried the liberals which is distressing considering the fact that she is supposedly the heir to the district's liberal tradition," Pabitch said.

Pelosi campaigned on her connections to the Democratic party structure, which she said would help her to raise money for AIDS research and education in

Washington. Kim Corsaro, editor of *Coming Up!*, a generally progressive gay and lesbian publication, created a furor last month when she endorsed Pelosi for Congress. She was widely criticized for "selling out" to a straight candidate by gay and lesbian leaders in the City.

Corsaro told *GCN* that Pelosi proved she appeals to gay and lesbian voters by receiving 21 percent of the gay and lesbian vote. "The result is remarkable given her low visibility in the gay community and the extremely negative campaign run against her by Britt... I would love to have a gay person

represent us in Congress but Britt simply has too many shortcomings. There were things we simply could not ignore."

Britt was charged with ignoring women's issues and being a poor leader on the Board of Supervisors. He was also criticized for endorsing conservative Democrat John Molinari for mayor of San Francisco over his ally and long-time friend of the gay and lesbian community, Art Agnos. The endorsement appeared to be part of a deal to ensure Molinari's support for Britt for Congress.

Charlie Howell, Pelosi's gay and lesbian coordinator, believes that the race was not decided on sexual preference but on competence. "In this town, there is not an anti-gay vote. Britt is the only one who ever raised the issue. Nancy is fully aware of the issues that the district is concerned about and you will be hearing a lot about those issues from Washington."

Pat Norman, former San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Health Services Coordinator, said that she is upset that some people in the progressive community could not overlook what she considers to be minor shortcomings in Britt for a historic opportunity to send a gay socialist to Congress. "It is difficult for me to understand why we could not agree to disagree and get behind our candidate. When we have such an opportunity it is very sad to see it wasted."

—filed from Boston

—filed from Boston

NY Murder Trial

Continued from page 1

defense then decided to accept a plea bargain for first-degree manslaughter.

Thompson's admission was problematic on two fronts. As D.A. Lewis said during the trial, "It put a lie to the self-serving statement that he [Owens] gave to the police. If this defendant killed another man believing he caught AIDS, he would not have sex with this young woman." Also, since Thompson was underage at the time, it opened Owens up for a charge of statutory rape. The penalty for first-degree

manslaughter is 8-25 years. Owens is scheduled to be sentenced on April 21, 1987.

Gay and lesbian rights activists are pleased with the outcome thus far. Thomas Stoddard, executive director of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, said acceptance of the defense arguments would have "set a terrible legal and social precedent, and would serve to validate irrational responses to people with AIDS. This defense was shown to be the sham we believed it to be."

—filed from Boston

—filed from Boston

news notes

Japan proposes testing foreigners

TOKYO — The Japanese government has proposed an anti-AIDS program which includes compulsory HIV-antibody testing of all foreigners entering the country, according to the *New York Times*.

The guidelines, which do not yet have legal force, also suggest requiring doctors to report AIDS cases to public health authorities, screening blood donors for HIV-antibody, and possibly requiring tests for gay men and IV-drug users.

Apparently wishing to avoid accusations of xenophobia, officials said they would study the policies of other countries before implementing these guidelines.

Although there have been few AIDS cases in Japan so far, public anxiety has been high since a Japanese prostitute died of the disease in January.

—Martin Heggestad

catholics vs. michelangelo

JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY — Two self-identified "militant Catholic organizations" have urged New York's Cardinal O'Connor to remove all works by the "homosexualist" artist Michelangelo from St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Morality Action Committee and the General Franco League claim that Michelangelo's works "glorify the naked male body." They say that conservative Catholics "should not have to be reminded of the perverted homosexual lifestyle" which is represented in the artist's works.

In an apparently unrelated development, *People Magazine* reports that cosmetic efforts to restore the time-ravaged beauty of Michelangelo's works in the Sistine Chapel may, in fact, be destroying the art.

—Marc Stein

did you see?

Newsweek reports in the April 6 edition that television evangelist Jim Bakker confessed his sinful tryst with Jessica Hahn shortly after it happened seven years ago. He told the terrible truth of his infidelity to psychologist Fred Gross, a member of the "Praise the Lord" (PTL) television family. Last week, Gross told viewers of PTL what it was like: "He was sobbing. He was shaking so violently I had to hold him. In 10 minutes we were on the floor. His face was buried in the carpet. He was sobbing and kicking and screaming.... If there has ever been a release, that was a release."

Newsweek says most of Bakker's followers were convinced the repentance was sincere.

—Stephanie Poggi

Community Voices

GCN JOB OPENING

Stephanie Poggi, GCN's News Editor, will be moving over to edit our Features department. This means that now we need a

NEWS EDITOR

to coordinate the news department; write or assign to other staff or volunteer writers articles of local and national/international interest; edit news copy; and lay out news pages each week. Requires strong writing and editing skills.

All GCN positions require familiarity with gay and lesbian community; commitment to gay and lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racism, and collective decision-making; and an awareness of class issues.

All GCN staff members receive \$180/week plus 4 weeks paid vacation, complete health/life insurance and sick leave. GCN also offers staff members a flexible, non-hierarchical work setting, with room for independence and innovation.

Send resumes as soon as possible to **GCN Job Search, 62 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.**

GCN strives for a multi-racial staff and board, and for equal representation of dykes and fags. Currently our staff is all white, with four men, five women, and one position unfilled. Our board is comprised of two men of color, two white men and four white women.

"read it again": more applause for long time passing

Dear GCN:

I have just read Cynthia Rich's review of *Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians* and all I can say is "PHEW!" And all the time I thought I was having fun.

I am one of the poor old dears who contributed to the book, and also the "proud old lesbian on the cover." And I certainly don't see the book in the same way as Ms. Rich sees it. Why is she so angry? Of course there is a difference between 50 and 80, Cynthia! But there is also a difference between 65 and 65. We are all different, and some of us prefer "old" and some of us like "older." So what?

To my mind, the book (which was put together by a feminist therapist, not a gerontologist) was aimed at younger lesbians, telling them what our lives are and were like, what they can change and what they can look forward to as they age. It wasn't easy, I'm sure, interviewing, taping, transcribing, editing, threatening, cajoling, begging, getting these 22 stories ready for publication, but I am glad Marcy Adelman persevered.

I find the title subtle and apt; I don't feel undermined, diminished, patronized or belittled one

damned bit.

Read it again, Cynthia.
Frances Lorraine
San Francisco, CA

Dear GCN:

I was upset by Cynthia Rich's angry and vicious attack on Marcy Adelman in Rich's review of *Long Time Passing: Lives of Older Lesbians*. It seems that Rich must reject anything which is not in complete agreement with her view of 'older' and 'old.' Her review is more a personal attack upon the editor than a critique of the book.

In contrast to Rich's position, I would like to applaud Adelman for her broader interpretation of the meaning of aging. By including women with a broad span of ages and experiences in the book, she brings together generations of women rather than drawing a line which separates them. I think Adelman and all the contributors deserve a standing ovation.

Matile Poor
San Francisco

what do 'human right' groups do?

Dear GCN:

First of all I would like to thank GCN for being there. Also I'd like to thank those who have written to me showing their support and concerns. It is you who make each day better and keep me going.

Now I need to express my feelings of anger and disappointment, and sometimes confusion. For the past month I have been seeking help from attorneys and groups who say they are interested in gay rights or in prisoner rights. All to no avail. The reason for my search is because I was denied parole on the grounds of my sexual preference. This is down in plain black and white, and a clear case of discrimination. Since the denial I have been involved in trying to file a lawsuit and have begun to find many more ways in which they are violating my right to Due Process. At this point I have grounds for a malpractice suit against my attorney and appellant attorney, slander and discrimination suits against the parole board and the probation agent who wrote my pre-sentence investigation report.

All of this is very intricate (welcome to 'democracy': government of, by & for 'the people') and technical, requiring the skills of someone educated in the law. As a prisoner and poor, that is unavailable to me. Therefore I have turned outward for help. No one has responded. This is very frustrating and confusing. Without that outside support I am setting myself up for even more continued, retaliatory harassment. Yet my pride and need to be treated as equal keep me fighting. At times I feel very alone in the struggle and wonder what these 'human rights' groups actually do? And where are all my brothers and sisters who have felt the hand of oppression themselves?

Like Martin Luther King Jr., I have a dream too! I'd like to be accepted for what I am, but my sexual preference is constantly the object of ridicule and persecution.

When I was younger I struggled to accept and understand myself on my own, alone. Not until I

came to prison did I find out about a "gay community" through GCN. Now after discovering a whole world of people like me, I'm still alone, in my struggle to be accepted and treated as an equal.

Those of you who are, thank you for being there, Ron Rousseau
171281
2400 S. Sheridan
Muskegon, MI 49442

support the gay & lesbian center

Dear GCN:

I applaud Laurie Huber's article of March 22. Boston's own gay and lesbian community center is long overdue.

Other major metropolitan areas have their gay and lesbian "home bases" — Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C. to name a few. Indeed, cities such as Los Angeles and New York have gone so far as to import Boston activists to run their centers. We have the talent, the money and above all, the urgent need to create a community center in Boston. Lame excuses born of gutless internalized homophobia are no longer acceptable reasons for opposing such a center.

The Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance fully endorses a community center for metropolitan Boston and urges the gay and lesbian family to involve itself in the support of this vital project.

As Dorothy said, "there's no place like home!"

Fraternally,
Will Hutchinson
Chair of the Alliance

lesbian s/m oppressive

Dear GCN:

I've been reading the dialogue between Margaret Hunt and Celeste Friend regarding feminism and sexuality. Although I did not attend the conference discussed in their articles, I would like to comment on the topic of lesbian s/m. I do not care to defend "New Radical Feminism," as I am not even sure that such a thing exists. I am, however, surprised at Margaret Hunt's assertions that standing against lesbian s/m should not be of immediate concern to feminists.

Lesbian s/m thrives on the oppression of women. Through domination, objectification, humiliation, and brutality, women who practice sadism replicate the oppressive practices which we have suffered through patriarchy. These are the same practices which, when carried out by men, we feminists oppose. However, when we see that womanhood and lesbianism have been poisoned by the same murderous philosophies as patriarchy, Margaret Hunt asks us to look the other way.

Many pro-s/m people have claimed that s/m is an empowering practice. The only type of power which sadists seem to claim is the same type of power that has been used against women by men for centuries. Is there anything positive about this type of power? Any power which is not shared is oppressive.

It seems threatening to the women's movement for feminists to criticize each other, but it is far from threatening; it is necessary. For the feminist movement to continue with some direction, we must analyse ourselves, our actions and our goals. We must define the kind of power or power-sharing which is pro-woman. To simply try to turn the tables on men is reactionary, and a reactionary movement is weaker than any other type of movement; a reactionary lifestyle is more self-deprecating than any other type of lifestyle.

In a related letter, Redmond claims that arguing against s/m involves bringing "power from within a woman." I fail to see how a victim of s/m violence (physical and psychological) is able to experience any feelings of power. The s/m movement purports that an s/m lifestyle is a matter of choice, but much sadist practice involves limiting choice for the "bottom" woman. It is unnerving that support groups for battered lesbians are becoming almost as plentiful as coming-out groups in the Pioneer Valley.

Redmond states that she is unable to find pleasure in non-abusive sex, I do not accept this excuse from male sexual abusers or rapists. Why should I accept this kind of excuse from women who abuse women or women who allow themselves to be abused. Abuse is a negative term and a negative action. It is unfortunate that patriarchy has instilled an equation of abuse with pleasure in women. It is up to us to help each other overcome the damages of patriarchy.

Yours in sisterhood,
M. Lynne Murphy
Amherst, MA

evident (?) sarcasm

Dear GCN:

Silly me for not noting the "evident" sarcasm in Don Hill's characterization of Bernard as a "diminutive but amusing Negro"! (See his review of *Boys in the Band*, GCN, March 8-14, and my letter in "Community Voices," March 29-April 4.) I generally appreciate such wit — indeed, I tried to incorporate some myself in the reviews I wrote for GCN in the early '80s — and I don't usually have trouble recognizing sarcasm in other people's writing.

Clearly the problem here is not that Don Hill fails to signal his sarcasm (by putting the questionable phrase in quotation marks, for instance, or through a shift in his rhetoric), but that I have allowed my consciousness as a black person to blind me to his humor. By way of explanation, I can only say that I do tend to get my defenses up whenever the press (lesbian and gay or mainstream) makes mention of black people in whatever context, especially when the racial identity of the writer is unknown to me. This is because such references are not usually used to point up the joke within racism itself, as Don Hill presumably intends to do, but rather to make blacks themselves the butt of a much more pointed joke, one which most of us don't have the ability even to respond to, much less to escape.

The explanation provided by the Features Editor at least clarifies the intention behind Hill's phrasing. I will be generous in my re-evaluation of his piece, and I hope that GCN likewise attempts to signal when its writers make rhetorical turns in the future, and continues to manifest the sensitivity to the concerns of people of color we have come to expect from its staff.

Phillip Brian Harper

Madison, WI

GayCommunityNews

Cover design by
Dan Mishkind

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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Run, Ginny, Run; We Need a Gay or Lesbian Presidential Candidate

By David Sondras

I agree with Reverend Pat Robertson. His gun-toting, bible-thumping television "ministry" warns us that America is in desperate need of salvation, and I agree.

But we are talking about two different Americas — his one of polyester patriots who see conformity as an index of righteousness and who fear the responsibility freedom brings.

His political vision of this country is precisely the one I want to save our country from.

But Reverend Robertson is ahead of the battle. As a presidential candidate he understands that though his views represent only a small minority of people in this country he can exercise disproportionate political influence because he has organized, vocalized, and energized his followers.

The gay and lesbian community can learn a lot from Reverend Robertson. And the number one lesson is that we should run an openly gay or lesbian candidate for President.

To such a race we bring limited, but enormously useful and powerful, resources. We are natural coalition builders for we are male and female, black and white, young and old, urban and rural, comprised of every nationality, religion, and economic background.

And we are everywhere. Our hundreds of newspapers, thousands of bars, community centers, health clinics, churches, organizations, and millions of brothers and sisters coupled with our compassion, energy, and unmatched creativity are ripe with national political potential.

Imagine this scenario: someone with skill, persuasiveness, and the appeal of Ginny Apuzzo enters the New Hampshire primary. Hundreds of students from New England stream into New Hampshire joining activists there to tell voters of Ginny's version, her commitment to a broad range of issues, and her courage in fighting to liberate us all from homophobic bigotry.

At every candidates forum, television appearance, and campaign stop, the national presidential campaign is forced to deal with lesbian and gay issues, to hear our demands as presented by an articulate, personable woman. Gary Hart would be forced to speak out on our rights as parents. Richard Gephardt would have to address his proposal for a national AIDS policy. And Michael Dukakis would be challenged at every turn.

Ginny could capture the imagination of people everywhere, and perhaps even astonish political pundits by placing well among independent-minded New Hampshire voters with her sincere appeal for a better America.

But how many delegates she wins, how many primaries she manages to run in, is not as important as the fact of her conducting a campaign. Simply by running, by not accepting her seat in the back of the Democratic party bus, she would put us miles ahead of where we would be by relying on straight "friends" who have traditionally produced little for our community.

By organizing, vocalizing, and energizing we can empower ourselves to do something about the oppression we face and we can alter the political course of this country with a concentrated, focused campaign.

There will be those who say, "Oh no, we cannot hurt the chances for a Democrat in the White House." And just as Martin Luther King and every liberator before and since has

been told, we will be warned that "now is the time."

This is a mistake.

We want so much to pretend that we belong, that America loves us, that we place every agenda ahead of our own. We must understand that there is no fight more precious, no cause more just, no victory more deserving, not time more urgent than ours is now.

There must be an end to gay children being thrown off bridges to their death.

There must be a new freedom to allow all of us to dance wherever there is dancing.

There must be a realization that America will be made stronger by investing in life rather than insanely wasting trillions in preparation for global destruction.

And there must be an end to the quiet desperation of those shaking in closets and the gratuitous punishment that leads so many of our brothers and sisters to walk crippled through life as emotionally disturbed, mentally tormented, and alcoholic.

More and more of us have the courage and self-respect to recognize that if we do not rock the boat we will be drowned. The injustices we confront cannot be discounted any longer by feelings that somehow we deserve them, that our struggle for justice is not as valid as others.

We are the people faced with the Dred Scott decision of this century, suffering from the neglect of the disease of this century, with the accumulated indignities and oppression of generations.

And we have the time, talent, and vision to change this country.

The national democratic party has repeatedly slammed its door in our face, willing to take our resources, votes, and energy, but unwilling to stand up for us except with muddled-mouth lip service.

The time has come to push open the door, to announce that it will be easier to include us than to take us for granted.

Pat Robertson is running for President and understands he is fighting a war with homosexuals over America's salvation.

I know which side I'm on. And I know I need a lesbian or gay presidential candidate.

If you are interested in Ginny running please drop me a note: David Sondras, Boston City Council, Boston, MA 02201, or give me a call at (617) 725-4225.

David Sondras is an openly gay City Councillor in Boston, Mass.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Community Voices

glaad has not lived up to our expectations

Dear GCN:

We have been following with interest the exchange of letters about the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) in the *New York Native* (some of which appeared in the *Philadelphia Gay News*). This exchange has clearly revealed the sad fact that GLAAD has not at all lived up to the expectations that many in the lesbian and gay community had for it when it was formed.

Unfortunately, these letters — primarily charges and counter charges between present and former leaders of GLAAD — have not in fact exposed the real weaknesses and mistakes of GLAAD.

When GLAAD was first formed it showed great promise. Hundreds of lesbians and gay men jammed a meeting called to protest the state public health code which banned oral and anal sex in public establishments and the unleashing of a homophobic media campaign (primarily in the *New York Post*). GLAAD became a rallying point for those who were tired of the use of AIDS as a club against us, who were tired of the idea that we should be ashamed of our sexuality, who wanted to begin fighting back.

In the weeks that followed, various GLAAD committees were set up and were very well attended. People came anxious to build something. However, from the beginning it was clear that GLAAD was not, and did not intend to be, a democratic organization. At committee meetings we were told that the "Steering Committee" had already made the decisions and the purpose of the working committee was to implement these decisions.

The Steering Committee, we found, was completely self-appointed. There was no mechanism whatever for rank-and-file participants in GLAAD to have any say in the decision making process. In fact GLAAD was not really an organization that one could join. You could join one of the committees, but this did not give you any say as to who should be leading GLAAD or what its policies should be.

This lack of democratic structure flows from the middle class, elitist outlook which permeates the GLAAD steering committee. Amongst all the dishing and counter-dishing it is clear that virtual-

ly all the present and past leaders of GLAAD have the self-conception that *they* are and should be the "leaders," and the rest of us the followers. None of them has questioned the undemocratic structure or the conception of a self-appointed steering committee. Darrell Yates Rist has the nerve to say, "But somewhere here the whole community is at fault. GLAAD... flickered out with very little comment from the gay and lesbian community." Since GLAAD did all it could to shield itself from criticism by even its own rank-and-file supporters — Rist admits keeping silent about any internal problems in GLAAD — it is somewhat disingenuous to blame the lesbian and gay community for failing to criticize GLAAD!

Vito Russo, in a recent letter printed in the *Native*, states that GLAAD leaders had agreed among themselves to devote 6 months to GLAAD when it was formed. How, he asks, could "articulate, dynamic, involved, creative people..." be asked to abandon their lives and their careers for longer than this? Those of us who have devoted years to the gay struggle find this amusing. More importantly, the vast majority of lesbians and gay men, who do not have middle class "careers" to safeguard, are *not* amused. For most of us, the struggle is a necessity, not a choice. We are not interested in following middle class "leaders" who promise to give us six months of their "valuable" time!

Several of the letters have bemoaned the lack of participation by women and people of color in the activities of GLAAD. Realistically, however, if you start with a self-appointed, elitist, white, predominantly male leadership, if you then create an organization with no mechanism whatever for democratic input from anyone, how can you expect to draw in third world people and women — people whose ideas and needs are *usually* ignored? If you do as much as possible to limit the organization to combatting "defamation," in the narrowly-defined sense of media coverage, how can you seriously *expect* to attract people for whom middle-class respectability is not their primary goal? This is in fact what happened with GLAAD and one reason GLAAD never achieved its potential.

There is, in fact, a tremendous potential in the

lesbian and gay community to build the kind of movement that we need. There are many "articulate, dynamic, involved, creative people" among "ordinary" working class lesbians and gay men. We need a real democratic movement which seeks to unleash the potential in everyone, instead of trying to build up the reputations of a few self-styled "leaders."

Over and over again in the past year or so, the lesbian and gay community in New York has shown its desire and need to militantly fight for our liberation — in the response to the state public "health" code and closing of gay establishments mentioned above, and in the angry response to the Supreme Court sodomy decision. Moreover, it was "ordinary" people who pushed the leadership aside on July 4th, resulting in a very successful demonstration in Battery Park in the midst of the "Liberty" celebration.

We need a movement that addresses the needs of all lesbians and gays. We need a movement that understands the intimate connections between the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation and the struggle for women's liberation. We need to understand that because "we are everywhere," we cannot pretend that issues such as racism, apartheid, and U.S. intervention in Central America are things that straight people should worry about and have nothing to do with gay people.

We certainly understand that these are difficult times, and there are no magic formulas for building a movement. We feel, however, that if all the resources that went into organizing GLAAD were put into an effort to really organize and tap the potential of the lesbian and gay community — working class, Black, Latin and white, women and men — we could at least begin to build the kind of movement that we really need.

Yours in struggle,

Steve Rose

Wayne King

(members of: Lesbian & Gay Liberation & Solidarity Committee, Lesbian & Gay Network of Mobilization for Survival, Revolutionary Socialist League)

we're fed up!

Dear GCN:

We're fed up! Let's go to Georgia and turn ourselves in and demand justice.

If 25 million gays turn ourselves in, what would our Supreme Court do then?

June 30 is the first anniversary of their anti-sodomy ruling. We here in prison want to do something about it. We're calling for a nationwide fast of gay and lesbian prisoners.

We are calling for our community to join hands with us. Both in prison and in the 'free' world. Thank you,
Nathaniel Barnes
136238 G-4-116
1000 St Clair Road
Springville, AL 35146

P.S. BWMT/Boston, Thanks for the support. We love you!

added strength

Dear GCN:

I am an incarcerated Third World Lesbian in the Racist, Sexist, Homophobic, Virginia Prison System. Since 1985 your newspaper and continued unyielding support have given me the added strength through the fact of knowing that there were people from the Gay Community who were Concerned about us who are "inside."

Fortunately, I have been granted parole from this system that totally dehumanizes, debases and hinders an individual's right to personal growth and self-expression. "Rehabilitation" in its proper concept is unheard of here.

My release date is scheduled in a couple of weeks, so at this time please remove me from your mailing list. I would not want the administration here to have the opportunity to dispose of your newspaper, which could go to another prisoner somewhere. My subscription at regular subscription rates is shortly to follow this letter.

Thanks again!
Toni Richardson
Goochland, VA

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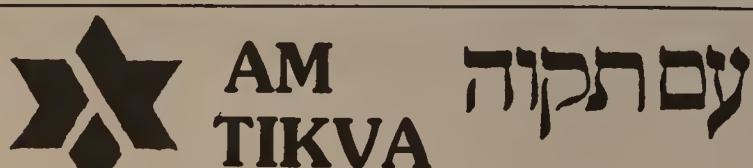
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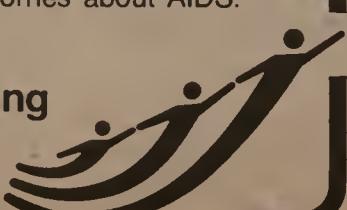
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More lesbian shows than usual

Boston's Les/Gay Film Fest

Beyond Therapy. Directed by Robert Altman. Written by Robert Altman and Christopher Durang. Based on the play by Christopher Durang. With Julie Hagerty, Jeff Goldblum, Glenda Jackson, Tom Conti. Running time 93 minutes. At the Nickelodeon, Boston.

By Michael Bronski

Once again Boston is being treated to a Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. This is the third, fourth and fifth depending on when you start counting and it has been a critical, commercial, and by most accounts, artistic success. The theater has been packed every night and *Waiting for the Moon*, a small-budget film about the relationship between Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, grossed more money than any other Boston film for two weekends in a row. Critics, although not kind to every particular film, have been very supportive of the festival as a whole. And the films themselves — something of a mixed bag (which is the case in every festival) — have generally been much better than what is usually playing in theaters.



Bob (Christopher Guest), Bruce (Jeff Goldblum) and Prudence (Julie Hagerty) find themselves in a strange and uncomfortable situation in Robert Altman's *Beyond Therapy*.

seemed closer to a gay male sensibility than what is usually taken to be a "lesbian film," but its very presence broadened the notion of what women may expect from a festival such as this. Though *Richard's Things*, a technically fine, mainstream British film with Liv Ullman, was boring, *Nineteen/Nineteen* (about two of Freud's patients, one of whom is a lesbian) and *Simone*, a new French film by a 19-year-old filmmaker, both promise to be exciting and deal with lesbians as important, not merely incidental, characters.

Another Boston premiere was the French *L'Homme Blesse* which did so well it will open commercially in several weeks. *Matinee*, directed by Jaime Humberto Hermosillo (*Dona Herlinda and Her Son*) was a charming film from Mexico, which presented two kidnapped boys who evolve a strange, and decidedly mixed, relationship with their captors. There was also a premiere of *Mala Noche* about a young, migrant Mexican hustler in Portland, Oregon. This, along with the screenings of *Matinee* and Arturo Ripstein's *Hell Without Limits* (shown last year at the Boston Film Festival) leads one to believe that the ever-growing Mexican cinema may well be a supplier of gay films.

Perhaps most importantly, this Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has had more than a token lesbian presence. The Boston premiere of *Waiting for the Moon* was a great success and also a great way to open and platform a small film which may have opened and left with very little notice. All of the other lesbian films are also Boston premieres. Lilianna Cavani's lush, silly *The Berlin Affair* may have



Mitsuko (Mio Takaki) and Louise (Gudrun Landgrebe) portray bisexual lovers in Nazi Germany in Liliana Cavani's *The Berlin Affair*.

Local Students' AIDS Plays

The Normal Heart by Larry Kramer. At Harvard University. March 19-22.

Martin on the Inside by Dan Kagan. At Brandeis University. April 1-5.

By Edmund Carlevale

Two plays about AIDS recently staged at local colleges offer fresh evidence as to the marvelous resource these theater companies provide to Boston. Larry Kramer's *The Normal Heart*, such a controversy on Broadway last year, was put on by Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, an irony along the lines of Tammy and Jim Bakker fundraising for NAMBLA. The Kennedy School's bare-bones production was two flats and a bed away from a straight reading, but the actors got their lines out, three or four did much more than that, and Kramer's eloquent fury took care of the rest. A couple of weeks later

Brandeis University presented *Martin on the Inside*, a new work by graduate student Dan Kagan. With good intentions minus the experience to bring them off, Kagan provided an unsettling Reagan-like evening of one-liners and misinformation, the most curious being an uncontested statement that a person with AIDS may spread the disease by biting someone. Though Kagan seemed at times to be working from a draft of a play about vampires, some of his lines were deft and overall the evening wasn't without its felicities.

Whatever do people who find Larry Kramer controversial think of German director Rosa von Praunheim, who in his movie *A Virus Has No Morals* advocates an army of people with AIDS terrorizing an indifferent public? The degree to which Larry Kramer is pushed from the middle of the road, where his talent and tactics place him, to an extremist position

is exactly the degree to which the gay movement is in trouble. His 1985 play details the early days of AIDS, when he and a handful of friends fought for funds and attention from the likes of Mayor Koch, the *New York Times*, the CDC, etc. According to the play, Kramer's cronies quickly became antagonistic crazies, as the latter preached moderation, conciliation, biding one's time, while he urged confrontation, bullying, publicity, all the tactics which retrospect has born out as singularly effective.

Mind you, the play has its problems, most having to do with some glib statements that abstinence is the only way to go. Also, it isn't always clear that some of the information presented is outdated. No doubt the Barbra Streisand-directed, Larry Kramer-written movie version, if and when it gets made, will resolve these detractions from what is so far the best

Continued on page 12

Continued on page 10

Gay Men's Voices Rise Up Singin'

Rise Up Singing. The Boston Gay Men's Chorus in concert. Jordan Hall, Boston, March 28.

By Tom Grabsky

Somewhere in the Great Beyond the spirit of George Gershwin must be turning cartwheels. It seems that everywhere one looks lately someone is performing his music. Perhaps part of this latest Gershwinmania is inspired by the recent discovery of a number of heretofore unknown scores of Gershwin tunes (an event which made considerable waves in some circles). More likely, it's an expression of that particular consciousness so pervasive in American music which turns in upon itself periodically for nourishment and to reestablish an essential identity. Gershwin is certainly a prime source of that identity. He was the Great American Composer, and few if any have managed to equal or surpass the genius which gave us "Rhapsody in Blue," "An American In Paris," and of course his masterpiece, "Porgy and Bess."

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus recently joined the Gershwin wave, performing a varied program featuring a special arrangement from "Porgy and Bess."

When I first learned B.G.M.C. would be doing material from "Porgy and Bess" I wondered, would there be Black singers? And what about Bess? When Gershwin premiered "Porgy and Bess" at the Colonial theater in Boston on Sept. 20, 1935, he and collaborator Edwin DuBois Heyward, author of the novel *Porgy*, upon which the opera is based, insisted upon an all-Black cast. I was disappointed to learn that there are no Black members of the chorus, although I was assured that Black men are welcome and that auditions are held to recruit voices for each new concert program.

mance. It was a treat to see the style with which director Barney managed the group. A little stiff at first, he soon eased into a relaxed and precise display of exacting commands. Clearly this is a chorus and director well suited each to the other.

Particularly entrancing was the beautiful hand ballet of deaf interpreter Richard Moore who, with the help of colleague Cheryl Giberson from her front row seat, gave an ongoing translation of the words' rhythm and dynamics to the deaf viewers in the audience. Moore's presence has become a familiar and enriching addition to many musical performances in the Boston area.

This sensitivity to the needs of the physically challenged is commendable in the B.G.M.C. and it would be nice to see it extended to more events in our community. How about a wheelchair section in the chorus?

Aside from the Gershwin medley there were several high points in the concert. An appropriately campy rendition of Irving Berlin's "Sisters," complete with kick line, brought down the house. For my money, the most powerful piece in the recital was "Eulogy" by Scott Warrender. Straight forward in its structure and sentiment, and sung with satisfying dynamic range, it served as the perfect vehicle to elicit the best these 60 voices have to offer. "Eulogy" was followed by a poignant silence in which we were asked to remember those taken from us by AIDS. After a minute or two of silence the chorus resumed with the Stephen Sondheim song "Not While I'm Around," an affirmative love ballad which clearly reflected the feelings of those of us in the audience who have had to care for loved ones who are sick and dying.

Other material in the program



Boston Gay Men's Chorus, December 1986

Given the fact that they are an all-white chorus, I think that the animated and sensitive extended choral arrangement transcribed by Hal Blackwelder was rendered with style and vitality. The diversity and dynamics of the original score were adequately maintained while sensibly omitting Bess, rather than descend to camp, or worse, sexism, by including tunes like "A Woman Is A Sometime Thing" or "I Loves You Porgy."

I was very impressed with the obvious amount of work that went into the learning and synchronization of such a complex and harmonically difficult score, and if a line was dropped here, or a blue note bent a little too much this way or that, these were little enough flaws in the face of such a wonderful and sincere perfor-

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Chinese Author Pai Hsien Yu Gay Men and L

By S. H. Chua

Professor Pai Hsien Yung, a prolific and widely read writer of modern Chinese fiction, was a guest of the MIT Chinese Cultural Festival in Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 20-21, where he introduced *Jade Love*, a movie of his novel of the same name, and a video of his play, *Wandering in the Garden*, *Waking From a Dream*. The latter is a multi-media drama combining operatic styles and classical mythology in the story of the reunion of three former opera actresses recalling their checkered pasts.

Not noted at the festival was the fact that among his many accomplishments, Professor Pai has also written many short stories as well as the first modern Chinese novel dealing explicitly with Chinese homosexuals. Entitled *Nie Zi* (roughly translated as *Outcast in modern English*) and set around the gay cruising park, *Xin Gong Yuan* (*New Park*) in Taipei, the novel has been recently made into a movie receiving popular and critical acclaim in Professor Pai's native Taiwan. Some of Professor Pai's short stories have been translated into English and published by the Indiana University Press. GCN was able to obtain the following interview with Professor Pai at the end of his magnificent *Wandering* in . . .

You were born in China and moved with your family to Taiwan. You received your education in Taiwan? And in the United States. I came here to do graduate studies.

At what age did you start writing?
I started early. About 19 or 20.

You are now settled in the United States?
Yes, in California. I've been teaching at U.C. Santa Barbara. I teach Chinese literature.

You are the first Chinese writer to write in Chinese on gay themes. Of course you were already a very established and well-known writer before you wrote your novel, *Nie Zi*. How was that book received by your reading public? I think generally speaking it has been received quite well, to my surprise. In the straight community, there has been no antagonism to this book. Recently it was made into a movie. Of course this is the first modern Chinese novel to deal with the homosexual scene. So of course it aroused a lot of curiosity among my readers. However, they did not read it as a so-called "gay novel," rather as a novel that deals with people — the people just happen to be homosexuals.

You said you were surprised. Did you expect controversy or antagonism?

I think I did. After all it was the first novel that deals openly with this theme. And at first I didn't know what to expect from the readers. I speak of the audience in Taiwan and Hong Kong which is larger than here. Up to this day I have not read any really antagonistic reviews. Of course in some of the reviews they would discuss the literary values, techniques. But as far as the homosexual theme, it has been pretty well accepted.

Were there any critics who ignored that the book was about homosexuals?

They didn't ignore it. They didn't just choose it as an issue, shall I say. The novel deals mainly with family relationships

of these young homosexuals. Of course in Chinese society, family relationships are the most important and certainly these homosexual boys are no exception. My theme is the relationship between parents and children in this context.

I get the impression that attitudes towards homosexuality are more liberal in Taiwan than in Hong Kong.

You are right. In Hong Kong there is a law against homosexuality. In Taiwan there is no such law. No laws against gays.

Apart from the law in Hong Kong, some Chinese community leaders there say that this is a British problem, that there is no such thing among the Chinese. I'm wondering whether in Taiwan there was a similar reaction — that you were writing about something that does not exist in Taiwan.

No. In Taiwan people acknowledge the fact that it is universal. And also it's been part of our history, of China. In China we have a long history of that. I think the people of Taiwan recognize it is part of the tradition. From the ancient times, poets and writers wrote about it. Actors have always been associated with homosexuality. And during the last dynasty, the Manchu Dynasty, homosexual practice was open. It was socially accepted. And in the Ching Dynasty they might not think highly of it but it was socially acceptable.

They don't deny it but they think it is *bu zhebg chang* (not normal).

Yes, yes of course there are these reactions sometimes. However, the summer before last, 1985, there were several panel discussions, open ones, on homosexuality. The panelists were doctors, psychologists, educators, writers, they all got together and they had open panels on this subject. The press gave impressive coverage.

What prompted the discussion?

AIDS. AIDS aroused people's concerns. Like here, too, there is a stigma of the disease — they blame the problem on gays. As we know this certainly is not true, this did, not originate with homosexuality, although homosexuals are among the high risk groups.

What year was *Nie Zi* written and published?
It was published in 1983.

Did you write it much earlier?
I spent a number of years, actually, working on it. It was finally published in '83.

It was portraying which period?
The late '60s and early '70s.

I was in Taiwan about two years ago and I met some young Chinese gay men there. Of course they had read your book and were obviously very impressed by it. They did say that it was slightly pessimistic. Do you think that gay life in Taiwan has changed substantially since the time depicted in your novel so that these young gay men see things differently now?

I don't think it was a pessimistic book. Yes, I did write a tragic or sad book because I wrote about tragic situations, of broken families of these people. But I think, in the book



Prof. Pai addresses the MIT C

King Speaks on Attitudes toward Lesbians in Taiwan

Pagoda at *Xin Gong Yuan*, the gay cruising park at which Pai sets his novel, *Nie Zi*.

the message at the very end, I think, is rather positive. I think my thesis, my message is just that homosexuals are human beings after all so the most important thing is still love. Those who find love... I think it is still the redeeming force. Compassion instead of pity, I think a lot of this comes through.

In the novel you describe this social scene around *Xin Gong Yuan* (New Park in Taipei) which you describe as "our kingdom" (*Zai Wo Men de Huang Guo Li*) and so on. How long has this scene been around or how long have you been familiar with it?

God knows how many years it's been around... nobody knows. I think in the book I say from time immemorial. (laughs) I think it has been there for a long, long time.

And the police generally leave the place alone?
Most of the time. Sometimes they harass the people but most of the time they leave it alone.

I think that is a major difference between Taiwan and Hong Kong. Perhaps in Hong Kong it has to do with the British influence.

I think so. Chinese people take a rather, generally speaking — not liberal, they are prudish — but they are resigned to it. A more mellow attitude, they are not uptight, generally speaking, unlike the West.

Chinese think you can do what you want but you have to have a family.

They don't talk about it. If they do know about it they just, well... (shrugs).

Nie Zi was a book that you took a long time writing and you thought that it might be controversial. But was it something that you felt you had to write, that you felt strongly about, or that you felt was in you and had to come out? Oh yes, I always wanted to write a book on homosexual people, on Chinese homosexuality.

Before that, as someone in the audience here pointed out, most of your characters were women. And you mentioned that you felt a special affinity with women. Was this because this was before you could write a book about homosexuals?

No, no. Actually because I have created some rather strong women characters, that's why people have the impression that I write about women all the time. Which is not true. I have written about generals, soldiers, military men, revolutionaries, all kinds of people. But as you saw on the video today, this is a bunch of interesting women. My women characters must have left a strong impression on my readers.

Do you think the gay liberation movement in the West has had an influence in opening up social attitudes towards homosexuality in Taiwan? I think gay liberation has had that effect in Hong Kong.

Well, I'm not sure how much impact it has made in Taiwan. I don't think the liberalization has anything to do with the gay movement here in the West. I think it has to do with the general liberalizing tendency of Taiwanese society as a whole. People there tend toward more liberal views in

cultural affairs as in political affairs. And that has to do with the opening up of the society.

Did the liberalizing tendency have to do with your decision to publish a book on homosexuality?

I don't think so. Because I wrote some homosexual stories when I was in college. That was in 1960. At that time gay liberation had not started yet and I knew very little about the American gay scene. I was in Taiwan and I knew very little about the gay scene over there either. So I guess out of my... I always wanted to write about homosexuality. As to the opening up of Taiwanese society, the very fact that the movie of *Nie Zi* could be made in Taiwan at all, that is a sure sign of liberalization. Because they have much stricter censorship for movies which of course have a much greater impact on people.

Let's just talk about your life now in L.A. Other than your teaching activities, are you connected with any gay groups in your area?

I'm not very active. I spend most of my time doing writing and research and so I am not very politically active. And also where I live, Santa Barbara is a small town. I am concerned about gay activities and gay activism. I have been reading things about that because I feel it is important and I am concerned.

There are large gay Asian groups in North America, in Los Angeles and San Francisco and a very active one in Toronto. Yes, the communities in L.A. and San Francisco are very large. I think it is very important to establish your identity — gay and Asian together.

That is why it is so exciting to encounter your creative output.

I do think that the Asians or, for my part, the Chinese society... the reaction to their gay sons and gay daughters is quite different. It's a different attitude. And also the relationships are quite different. So I guess we do need some kind of expression.

What are your current projects?

I have been working on a new novel.

Any gay themes?

Not this one. Maybe in the future I will write some more in short stories about homosexual people.

Now that you are in the U.S. are your stories set in the U.S., or are they still set in Taiwan?

No, I've pushed it back. My new novel is set in China in the late '30s and '40s. It's about social change.

About the movie, is there a distributor here in the U.S.? It's been shown in New York and Los Angeles and maybe San Francisco. Perhaps one day it will get to Boston.

I think it is really important. Most of what is called gay culture here is by white Americans. You are among the first to have written and expressed something for Asian and Chinese gay people. It is important that your work find a larger audience.

It would be wonderful if you could get the film here.

Perhaps we can get you to introduce it.

Sure, sure I would be glad to come.



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Schools Produce AIDS Plays*Continued from page 6*

dramatic work about AIDS.

In college productions often there is an actor with more charisma and charm than one ordinarily finds at more professional prices. Also, the intimate spaces of these theaters add excitement. Such was the situation at Harvard, where Matthew Baldwin as the Larry Kramer figure, and Kevin Jennings as his Rex Reed-like lover, lent the ranting enough romance to underscore one further detail of the AIDS tragedy, its effect on love. Special credit belongs to co-directors Ralph P. Brescia and Abby E. Cohen, who gave the production a smooth professional tone. Proceeds were donated to the AIDS Action Committee.

Kagan's *Martin on the Inside* takes place in the mind of a young man, though the action is no more nightmarish or fantastical than any reality the epidemic has yet wrought. Kagan is fine with one-liners and patter, and he gets a range of characters up on his stage. His slip-up isn't one of technique or talent as of plain inexperience; few of Martin's feelings correspond to real-life emotions. Possibly this is why Kagan has set the action inside Martin's head, so that one can't complain of unreality.

The plot holds few surprises, and even fewer if one has seen *Torch Song Trilogy*: New Yorker looking for love. In a bar a cute stud asks Martin if he wants to go into the men's room and fuck. Martin is disgusted. His two campy best friends scoff because Martin is looking for a man to settle down with: "How hetero!" All the same, the hetero dream arrives, along with cohabitation. Minutes later Martin is coughing, then coffin-bound. Curtain.

Granted that we've passed the days when all gay characters had to be heroes, but neither have we arrived at the unparanoid future when it's easy to watch such a parade of gay shits. Martin's prince abandons him the moment his sickness is verified, confining his love to daily phone calls. In fact, everyone abandons Martin, except for a campy lounge singer who also has AIDS. There's no hint of any gay support system, either professional or personal. Martin (Steve Oxman, co-coordinator of Brandeis' gay student group), who has most of the lines, delivers only one-liners, and an offputting number of them have to do with the cost of things. Martin seems absolutely obsessed with money, which renders a shallow character all the more so.

On the good side, a couple of performances hinted at careers of promise. Chandra Pieragostini and David Caldwell, as Martin's mother and father respectively, were sympathetic and convincing, and Anne Jorgenson, though she relied too heavily on a Swoozie Kurtz persona, belted out a couple of songs with wonderful energy and wit.

In the following months other colleges are coming out with major productions, two of the more promising being Stephen Sondheim's *A Little Night Music* at Emerson, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Loeb. It is interesting that a significant number of these shows star openly gay actors (*Fifth of July* recently received an excellent production at BU's Huntington Theater). One has to wonder where this openness goes to once celebrity arrives?

Triangle Theater, Boston's explicitly gay theater company, will produce William Hoffman's *As Is*, another popular play concerned with the AIDS crisis. *Gay and Lesbian Counselling Services* will be the beneficiary of the May 1 opening.

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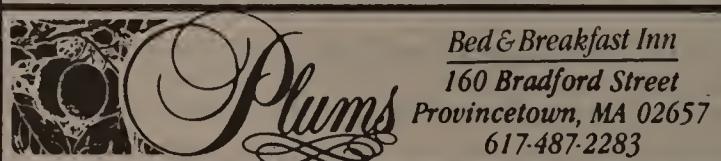
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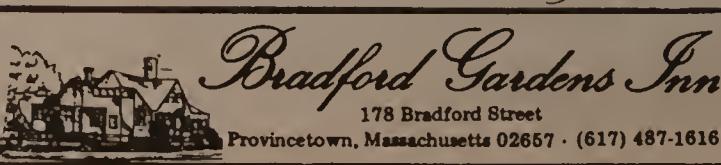
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"A TOUCH OF CLASS"

Pen Pal Club-Dating Service write to: "D" P.O. Box 693 North Adams, MA 01247 (38)

GOVERNMENT HOMES

from \$1 (U repair). Delinquent tax property. Repossessions. Call 805-687-6000. Ext. GH-1437 for current repos list. (39)

EDITORIAL HELP.

Volunteers needed to edit copy, answer correspondence, perform general office tasks. Time commitment: 2 hrs weekly minimum. Weekdays & Thurs. and Fri. nights; possible take home work. Call Loie, 426-4469. (C)

FLYING FINGERS AKA DATA ENTRY

If you have some time to do data entry for GCN, particularly during the day, we have a simple project that needs the "special attention" only data entry people can give. Call Catherine at 426-4469. (C)

GET PUBLISHED!

GCN's news dept is looking for a volunteer to write news notes. News writing experience not necessary. 5 hr/week (flexible). Call Stephanie at 426-4469 for more info. (C)

ORGANIZATIONS

DOB

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, younger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (V14.35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER

Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V14.15)

LESBIANS

Are you lesbian, bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call Tony, 497-8282 (V14.32)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (15.9)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones St. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (V15.23)

RESORTS

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block to bay, open year-round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St., P'town, MA 02657. (46)

LADY JANE'S INN — P'TOWN

Newly built & ideally located. Private baths & spacious rooms. Separate outside entrances. Free parking & continental breakfast. Common area with TV & VCR. Tel. (617) 487-3387 or write to 7 Central St., P'town, MA 02657. (48)

MIKE'S BED AND BREAKFAST STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

Get away from the busy city. Spend a week or weekend in the beautiful Berkshires at my B&B. Walk to town, short drive to many cultural attractions. Call (413) 298-4095 or write Box 1049 for rates and reservations. (39)

GREENHOPE FARM

A special space for women-only. Located in Vermont's Green mts. Spring Holidays feature horseback riding, baby goats, maple sugaring, hiking and more. OFF SEASON rates begin April 1 thru May 15. Call for brochure 802-533-7772. (38)

SWEET CAROLINE

A new women's guest house right around the corner from Duval Street in Historic Key West. Patricia Major, MD, owner. 529 Caroline Street, Key West, FL, 33040, or call (305) 296-5173. (38)

PUBLICATIONS

FIGHTING WOMAN NEWS quarterly magazine of martial arts, self defense, combative sports, history. Articles, news, reviews since 1975. Subscriptions \$10/outside US \$15. Free info/samples. Box 1459-GC, Grand Ctr. Stn, New York, NY 10163. (38)

BLACK/OUT

The new quarterly magazine from the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, features news, views, reviews, poetry, short fiction and announcements of interest to the national Black Lesbian and Gay community. Sample copy, \$4, 1 yr. subscription, (4 issues) \$10. To: Black/Out, NCBLG, 930 F Street, NW no 514, Wash., DC 20004. Black/Out: Because silence is costly.

LESBIAN CONTRADICTION

A Journal of Irreverent Feminism. Quarterly of commentary, analysis, reviews, cartoons & humor by and for women who agree to disagree—who are still political, but not necessarily correct. Sample \$1; sub \$5; more if/less if. LesCon, 584 Castro, no. 263G, SF, CA 94114. (V15.18)

GUARDIAN: Independent radical newsweekly. Covers Gay, women and minority struggles and international progressive movements. Special offer-4 issues FREE. Write *Guardian*, Dept GCN, 33W 17th St. NY, NY, 10011. (ex)

off our backs

Celebrating 15 years of radical feminist journalism. We bring feminist national/international news analysis and reviews each month. \$11 year, 11 issues. (\$15 for contributing subs) \$20 institutional fee. Sample \$3 for 3 issues! Write 'off our backs' Dept GCN, 1841 Columbia Rd. NW, Room 212 Washington, DC 20009. (ex)

OUTRAGEOUS WOMEN

National journal of woman-to-woman S/M. Diverse feminist quarterly of S/M fact, fiction and photos. \$11/yr. Single issues \$3. Must state you are over 18. SASE for info. PO Box 23, Somerville MA 02143. (ex)

WOMAN OF POWER: A Magazine of Feminism, Spirituality, and Politics, an inspiring international quarterly publication. Subscriptions \$22 for 4 issues; singles issues \$6 plus \$1 postage. P.O. Box 827, Cambridge, MA 02238, telephone (617) 625-7885. (ex)

ON OUR BACKS, the sexual entertainment magazine for lesbians, is 48 pages of erotic fiction, features, plus timely sexual advice and news columns. We are quarterly, national, unique and provocative. \$15/yr sub or \$5 current issue to: On Our Backs, PO Box 42196, San Francisco, CA 94142. (ex)

HELP WANTED

ADVOCATE/CASE WORKER

To provide information and referral, crisis intervention and counseling to low-income residents of Everett and Medford.

ADVOCATE/CASE WORKER

Assist homeless families to find resources, services and housing. Access to car necessary.

HOUSING SEARCH WORKER

Outreach to find landlords to rent to homeless families. ½ time.

HOUSING WORKER

Knowledge of housing and welfare programs desired. People of color and/or low-income encouraged to apply by April 24 to:

Tri-CAP, 10 Highland Street, #, Medford, MA 02155. AA/EOE. (39)

PROMOTE GAY FILM

Well, not really...GCN needs a volunteer to oversee microfilm distribution. Answer mail, order film for individuals, libraries and universities. Just a few hours a month should be all. Call Catherine at 426-4469. P.S. GCN thanks our own Donald Stone who handled the microfilm tasks with such a debonair style for the last several years. (C)

HAND JOBS

GCN could use some people willing to do simple and easy manual labor a couple of hours a week. Envelope stuffing, stamping, routine (and yes, sigh, somewhat boring) work in the ever stimulating GCN offices. Call Catherine if you feel you just must volunteer at 426-4469. (C)

The LARGEST DIRECTORY for New England

The 1987

Community Guide

for gay men and lesbians

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HELP WANTED

DISABLED LESBIAN NEEDS ATTENDANT

Mon. 8:30am thru Weds. 8:30am (48 hours) \$

TRY GCN'S "GUARANTEED ROOMMATE" AD

GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer
All Roommate and Housemate Ads
that are Prepaid for Two Weeks
We will run until you find a roommate.

Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays till noon.

ROOMMATE WANTED

DORCHESTER LIVING

Two F & two cats looking for indep. Lesbian or Bi F to share beautiful Dorchester home. Chem free, no more pets. 10 min walk to Ashmont T. 5/1 \$350/mo incl util. Diane, 288-9155. (39)

JP 3LF sk 4th for spacious apt nr Pond, T. Summer sublet, prob. fall option. Avail. May or June. \$270+ 522-9760. (39)

Do trees, grass & a garden excite you? Do you want to put your feet up & relax in your home & L couple seeks 1-2 L to look for a house rental together. You are nonsmokers, s/m tolerant, & stable. 666-2143. (39)

GWF & cat sk F (pref 30s+) for large airy 3 bdrm apt in W. Som. Smkr o.k. Grat loc. \$250+ 623-5739. (39)

2 women seek 3rd for no smoke no drug or alc apt. Must be 30+. We have 3 cats. Sorry no more. Sm yard, & b porch conv to T. \$215+ for June 1. Speak with Sonia. Call 7am-2pm. (38)

We have a sunny Somerville home w/a garden & porches. We're looking for 2 LF's to join us. No cigs or pets. Call 625-7435. (39)

Seeking LF's to find & share Som/Cam apt 5/1. Semi-coop, semi-veg, no smoke or drugs, min alc. Can pay \$275+ (pref less). Let's create a friendly, supportive home. Sara T. 625-7435. (39)

2 LF's seeks third for large sunny apt on safe quiet St. Friendly, indep. resp roommate desired. \$250+. 825-2752. Call soon. (39)

GCN Office Manager (since 1979!) looking for a QUIET gay male roommate to share small apartment. Separate rooms, no "living" room. I spend most of time at GCN, trick now & then, (not enough!) & live in the Fenway. \$202/mo incl heat. Mike at GCN, 426-8752. (C)

2 LF 32 seek 2 responsible F to share 3 bdrm apt in JP. Great location- walk to bus & pond. Avail now! Must like animals. Call Anne, 524-3925. (38)

BOSTON BEHIND GARDENER MUS
F or M wanted for large bdrm: 12 ft ceilings, 7 ft windows, in 2bedrm apt only \$322 util free! Sobriety pref. Call George 731-3650. Keep calling. (38)

CHEAP HOUSING
Indep personable F for wonderful, sunny 2 br in Waltham. 128/Bus access. Res nghbhd. \$250+. 4/1, no smoke/pets. Kim 492-5027, 894-4638. Keep trying. (38)

JAMAICA PLAIN — PONDSIDE
GWM 30 prof seeks sim for beautiful sunny, spacious apt. Incls sunrchr, frpl, w/d, D/D, 2-car garage. Close to pond, Arboretum, T. Non-smkr pls. \$425+ (approx \$60). Avail May 1st. 524-1009. Leave message. (38)

2LFs (25 & 31) seek 3rd for sunny up apt. Feminist, \$230+, Near T. Avail. now. 522-4368. (38)

2LFs seek friendly 3rd for large, sunny, Cambridgeport semi-coop. Call 576-3103 - Keep trying. \$255+. (38)

For CLEVE CIRCLE scruffy basement apt, May 1st. 2F seek rmate 24+, indep. Friendly, considerate, respect privacy. No NEATNICKS. Near 3T lines. \$216 incl ht. Dana/Naomi, 739-6566. (38)

SEEKING GAY ROOMMATE
Straight woman seeks one or more gay male roommates who have an apartment to share for first of June. Call 566-7507 in evening. (38)

2L seek 3rd for Somerville apt. 2nd fl, sunny. Looking for non-smoker, 21+, responsible & FRIENDLY. Rent \$285+ utils. Call 628-7744 9-3pm wkdys. (38)

ARLINGTON
Feminist and/or lesbian wanted for lovely duplex with 1F, 1M. Deck, fireplace close to pond and MBTA. No pets. 646-7968. (38)

2 LF and cat seek LF for 3 BR apt Somerville. Cozy, hardwood floors, 2 porches. We are friendly, warm, responsible — seek same. Rent \$233+ util. For May 1st. No smokers/pets please. Call Dina/Dianne 623-0310, 625-3910. (38)

APARTMENTS

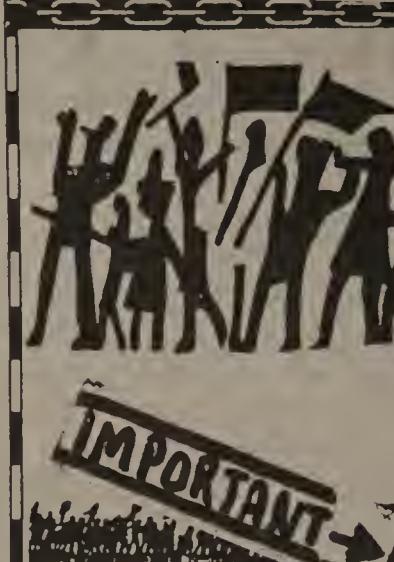
Dorchester: 6rm 2 BDRM 2nd flr remod kitch & bath fresh paint/paper safe owner occ full porch gas ht wtr & stv oil heat \$575/mo no util 282-1196. (39)

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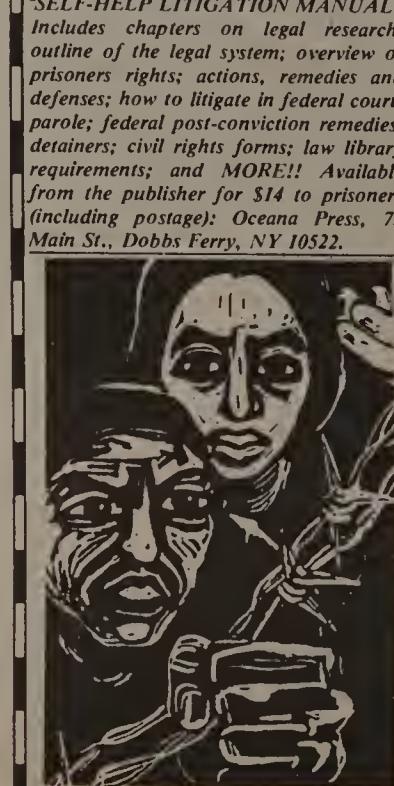
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(including postage): Oceana Press, 75
Main St., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.



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TEXAS Censorship Info
The attorney that investigates mall abuses
& censorship based on the Guajardo v.
Estelle decision is: Karl Stern, Vinson and
Elkins, 3300 First City Tower, 1001 Fannin
St., Houston TX 77002. Let him hear
your complaints!!

**WHAT ARTISTS AND PRISONERS
HAVE IN COMMON IS THAT BOTH
KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE
FREE.**

James Baldwin

TEXAS Censorship Info
The attorney that investigates mall abuses
& censorship based on the Guajardo v.
Estelle decision is: Karl Stern, Vinson and
Elkins, 3300 First City Tower, 1001 Fannin
St., Houston TX 77002. Let him hear
your complaints!!

**YES, please keep sending your great
paper! If I can help in any way, such
as writing poems, just let me know. I
have no one on the outside to speak
of and it would be fun to be able to
speak openly with someone gay, so if
you could put an ad in for me I'd ap-
preciate it. Thanks. Terrell L.**

GATELEY, B-321560, 1150 SW
Allapattah Rd, Indiantown FL 33456.

**I'm a 40 yr old, Black bisexual male
who'd like to hear from someone in
the free world who has feelings. I
seek sincerity. Percy Wm. ELLIS,
180-015, Box 4571, Lima OH 45802.**

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF
PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an
Anarchist*.

PRISONER FRIENDS!
We are now at a NEW
address! PLEASE make a
note of it:

GCN Prisoner Project
62 BERKELEY ST.
BOSTON, MA 02116



**NAMBLA (North American Man/Bo
Love Association) Bulletins are available
FREE to persons imprisoned for sex with
minors. Write to Rock Thatcher, PO Box
70810, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33307.**

OUTLOOK ON JUSTICE, a prisoner
support newsletter, produced by the
American Friends Service Committee
(Quakers), is available to prisoners FREE
of charge. (\$5 to outsiders) Write to:
AFSC Outlook on Justice, 2161 Mass
Ave, Cambridge, MA 02140.

OFF OUR BACKS, a women's libera-
tion journal of news and features is
free to women in prison. Write them
at: oob, 2423 18th St NW, Washington
DC 20009.

PRISONERS! Please send us some
doodles, drawings, poems and
poetic scribblings for this summer's
prisoner centerspread of poetry and
drawings. DON'T WORRY if you
aren't a 'pro'! Some of your heart-
felt jottings and scribbles are the
best we ever see! (But if we're lucky
and get a FLOOD of stuff, please
don't be pissed if we can't put in
everything. THANKS! (this is the
fun-est part of the prisoner project
— smile)

TV—TS Support!
Any incarcerated gays or transsex-
uals can contact any of the below
prisoners for info on the legal,
surgical, endocrinological (hormonal), or psychological aspects
of transsexuals or gays and the law.
We are forming an organization: TIP
(Transsexuals In Prison). Allyn
SCRIBNER, 380398 Ellis 1-C-6, Hunt-
ville TX 77343; M.J. ASHFORD, 1479
Collins Ave, Marysville OH 43040; or
Vanessa MERIWETHER, 24493-18-2A,
Box 30, Pendleton IN 46064.

TVs — TSs !!!
Northwest Gender Dysphoria
Information & Support Ctr.,
1601 N. Hwy.95#6, Moscow,
ID 83843; can supply refer-
als to MDs, peer groups,
parole help for those in
Northwest. Also we plan to
start a newsletter in the
future (FREE to TV/TS
prisoners).

TV/TS info service
North American Transvestite-
Transsexual Clearinghouse, 600 E.
Pine St, Seattle, WA 98122. (206)
624-8266

J2CP Info Services, Box 184, San
Juan Capistrano, CA 92693. Info and
pamphlets on TS; referrals to
therapists and physicians.

Used (foreign) STAMPS—FREE!
We have some used stamps that we've
been collecting this year and will pass
them on to those prisoners who collect
stamps. Please write for some ONLY if
you've checked to see if you can get used
stamps through the mail. We'll wait a
month and see how many requests we get,
then we'll divide them up equally among
the askers and send them out, so be pa-
tient. Thanks.

**I am too damn trusting of others (not
a good trait to have in prison). You'd
think I'd have changed after 9 years. I
don't read as much as I write (non-
fiction and poetry, incessantly). I'm
middle-aged, like 'listening and danc-
ing' music, am an avid science fiction
fan and would love to have a penpal.
Rik GILLILAND, Box B-38471,
Florence AZ 85232.**

**It would give me great joy to corre-
spond with a gay man. I'm Afro-
American, like body-building, am an
artist major (Interior design), love
rebuilding sports cars and traveling.
Keith BRAITHWAITE, 402046, Rt 2
Box 20, Midway TX 75852.**

**I'm a TV or Queen, small built, petite,
loving, sincere and am a total slave to
my lover. Looking for a sincere man
from the outside, If possible. I go by
the name of Denise. SASE please.**

**David L. NUETZEL, 07780-1422, Box
1100, Avon Park FL 33825.**

**8
POVERTY
8
POVERTY**

CALENDAR

April 11
to
April 25

11 saturday

Cambridge — Harvard gay/lesbian dance. Info: 495-5476.

Medford — Tufts gay/lesbian dance. Info: 628-2818.

Cambridge — Gay/Lesbian Awareness Days at Harvard/Radcliffe. Panel discussion series includes parenting, AIDS, literature and religion. Info: 495-5476 or Matthew, 498-2078.

Boston — "Feeling So Gay," an evening of live dance music (swing, polka, waltz and rock) by Boston's Lesbian & Gay Freedom Trail Band. Boston YWCA, Clarendon St. An alcohol-free event. 8PM. Info: 522-9194.

Cambridge — Classical music by women for women. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. DOB members, \$4, others \$5. Info: Jean, 277-8150.

Brookline — Mass. Lesbian & Gay Bar Assoc. Spring Dinner Dance. Longwood Towers, 20 Chapel St. 7PM. \$40 members, \$45 non-members. Info: Chris Westphal, 738-7981.

Worcester — Labrys, a women's duo in concert. YWCA, 1 Salem Sq. 8PM. Info: 791-3181.



The Girillias, 24 friday

12 sunday

Cambridge — AIDS risk for women, a seminar by the AIDS Action Committee. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 6PM. Free. Info: 491-6050.

Newton — Women's rugby clinic sponsored by the Beantown Women's Rugby Club. Lasell Junior College. 9:30AM-5PM. \$10. Info: Betsy, 734-1271 or Kerri, 731-8358.

Roxbury — Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society, monthly meeting. 1PM. Info: P.O. Box 1051, Back Bay Annex, Boston 02117.

Salem — Wild Women's Witch Hunt. Carpool from Cambridge, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9AM. Info: Ruth, 1-745-7329.

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors monthly potluck. First Church Hall, corner Eliot and Centre Sts. 4-7PM. Info: 522-3894. Bring dish to share and non-alcoholic beverage.

Cambridge — Black & White Men Together monthly meeting. Phillips Brooks House, Harvard Yard. Info: 266-4378.

13 monday

Boston — "Musically Speaking," jazz, R&B, African, reggae & women's music radio programming by Melanie Berzon. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 8-10PM. Info: 494-8810.

14 tuesday

Cambridge — WITCH presents "Self-Sufficiency and Female Creativity," a lecture by Joyce Contrucci. Episcopal Divinity School, 99 Brattle St. 8PM. \$5.

Cambridge — DOB rap, "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are." Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

15 wednesday

Cambridge — Lesbian Al-Anon. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Feminist discussion, "Celebrating Womanhood: Rites of Passage." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8PM. Free. Info: 354-8807.

Durham, NH — Blue Jean Day at UNH. Straights and gays are encouraged to wear jeans their support for gay rights. Info: (603) 862-1008.

Cambridge — DOB Lesbians 50+ discuss, "Must We Stop Having Fun in Long-Term Relationships?" Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Filmmaker Lizzie Borden screens *Born in Flames* and discusses her work. U. Mass./Downtown, 7:30PM. Free.

Boston — New Ehrlich Theater presents Harold Pinter's "Old Times." 539 Tremont St. 8PM. Through 5/9. Info: 482-6316.

16 thursday

Cambridge — Allegra Coffeehouse. YWCA, 7 Temple St. Info: 547-1378.

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 7PM-on. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Iris Bloom's one-woman theater based on the Thompson-Kowalski disabled lesbian legal battle. Boston Univ. Law School auditorium, 765 Comm. Ave. Free. All welcome. Info: 353-9808.

Dorchester — GALA monthly meeting. 7:30PM. Info: Joe, 282-7822.

Boston — Civil disobedience organizing meeting for Oct. lesbian/gay march on Washington. UMass./downtown, 100 Arlington St. 7PM. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 492-1091.

Cambridge — Gays at MIT Cheese Cake Social. GAMIT Lounge. 8PM.

Boston — Northeastern Univ. AIDS Education Forum presents **Barney Frank & Denise Carty-Bennia**. N.U. School of Law, 97 Cargill Hall. 11:45AM-1:30PM.



GCN mailing, 17 friday

17 friday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 62 Berkeley St., near Dover & Arlington T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

18 saturday

Boston — Gay/lesbian March on Washington organizing meeting. Piemonte Room, City Hall, back entrance. 1-4PM. Wheelchair accessible.

Boston — Mary Fridley, New Alliance Party chairperson, "Coming Out in God's Backyard." U.Mass./Downtown, Stuart St. at Arlington. 2-5PM. \$10. Info: 524-7710.

Cambridge — DOB Lesbian singles discuss, "Friendships — How Important are They?" Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: Jean, 277-8150.

20 monday

Cambridge — Lesbian/Gay Awareness Week at MIT. *Pink Triangles*, 4:30PM; *Before Stonewall*, 5:30; *Silent Pioneers*, 7:30. Room 4-270. Free. Info: 253-8898 or 9AM-2PM, 253-3581.

21 tuesday

Boston — "Say It Sister," Jennifer Abod hosts. WMBR 88.1FM. 7-8PM.

Boston — Gay Fathers of Greater Boston discussion, "Lifestyles of a Gay Father." Info: 742-7897.

Salem — North Shore Gay and Lesbian Alliance presents the documentary "The Paul Cronan Story." Meier Screening Rm., Salem State College, Rt. 114, Lafayette St. 7PM. Free. Info: 745-3848.

Boston — New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans monthly meeting. 34 Edgerly Rd. 8PM. Info: 262-9793.

22 wednesday

Boston — Filmmaker Michele Parkerson presents and discusses her work. U.Mass./Downtown, Stuart St. at Arlington. 7:30PM. Free.

Cambridge — MIT Awareness Week films and speakers: *Rethinking the Family*. Room 4-270. 4:30PM. Info: 253-8898 or 253-3581.

24 friday

Cambridge — Kate Rushin reading & reception. 4:30PM. *Janice Perry, AKA Gal*, and the Girillias band. 8PM. MIT. Free. Info: 263-8898 or 253-3581.

Somerville — **Patty Larkin & Friends**, in concert. Somerville Theater, 55 Davis Sq. 8PM. Info: 625-1081.

Boston — Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian & Gay Alliance formal dance. 9PM-1AM. Info: V. 266-0115.

Boston — "Suicidality and AIDS Anxiety," a lecture by Martin J. Pildis. AAC, *Mental Health Forum*. Mass. Mental Health Center, 74 Fenwood Rd. 7-8:30PM.

Boston — Gay Men's Chorus in concert. U.Mass./Harbor Campus, large science aud. 7PM. \$3. Info: Kate, 929-8276.

25 saturday

Dorchester — GALA Singles Spring Fever Party. Meeting House Hill. 9PM. Info: Jeff, 288-2125.

Cambridge — Conference for New England working writers sponsored by National Writers Union. Kennedy School, Harvard Sq. 9AM-6PM. \$40, \$25 union members. Info: 868-3143.

Cambridge — Dance Party & Talent Auction to benefit the Boston Bisexual Women's Network. Ticknor Lounge, Boylston Hall, Harvard Yard. 7:30PM. \$3. Wheelchair accessible, alcohol- and smoke-free. Info: 247-6683.

Boston — Beantown Softball League Buccaneers team benefit hosted by Club Cafe. Pre-season Brunch. Noon. \$20.

Dreamgirls. By Tom Eyen. Produced by Michael Bennett. The Schubert Theater, Boston. Through May 2.

The musical *Dreamgirls* tells the story of three women rhythm and blues singers in the '60s and their climb, over two decades, to the pinnacle of crossover success. The plot more than closely resembles the career of the Supremes, but *Dreamgirls* is more than a simple reworking of The Diana Ross Story. Beneath the glamour, gloss, gutsy singing and frenetic dancing lies an indictment of the compromises forced on Black artists by white society.

Lillias White plays the long-suffering, big-voiced Effie, who with her girlfriends Lorrell (Arnetta Walker) and Deena (Alisa Gyse) forms the dynamic Dreams trio. That is, until their manager Curtis (Obba Babatunde) relegates Effie to the position of backup singer, and eventually replaces her. White is definitely the star of this production, with her supernova "And I'm Telling You, I'm Not Going" at the end of the first act.

Though act two is bogged down by plot lines which resemble soap opera, there are three flashes of real emotion in the second half. Curtis signs a lovely "When I First Saw You," to Deena; Effie and Deena have a genuinely tearful reunion seven years after Effie's unceremonious ousting; and finally Effie's heart-rending "Faith in Myself." Lesbians and gay men of all colors can find meaning in the message of *Dreamgirls*: reaffirmation of the need for integrity, whether as a Black pop star in the assimilated music market or as an out gay person in our assimilationist world.

— Christopher Wittke

Hollywood Shuffle. Directed by Robert Townsend. Written by Townsend and Keenan Ivory Wayans. At the Nickelodeon, Boston.

One of the most shameful episodes in Hollywood history is the casting of jazz singer Billie Holiday as a maid in the 1947 *New Orleans*. Things haven't changed much since. Robert Townsend is a Black actor who is lucky enough to have steady work. He was sick, though, of playing pimps, muggers, thugs and servants. With his small savings and a lot of credit cards, he has produced, written, directed and starred in his own nightmare/dream version of what it is like to be a Black film actor and have to play the *Hollywood Shuffle*.

Shuffle centers around the efforts of Black actor Bobby Taylor (Townsend) to find film work. Once he's been cast as a be-bop gang leader with an enormous afro, he must decide how to keep his self-respect. These are the bare bones however and the best parts of the film are Bobby's fantasies of what Black performers could be, as well as sharp parodies of mainstream pop-culture. There is a wickedly funny spoof of the Ebert and Siskel show called "Sneakin' Into the Movies," and an on-target TV commercial for a Black Actors School in which white people teach classically trained Black actors how to shuffle, speak jive, and carry spears.

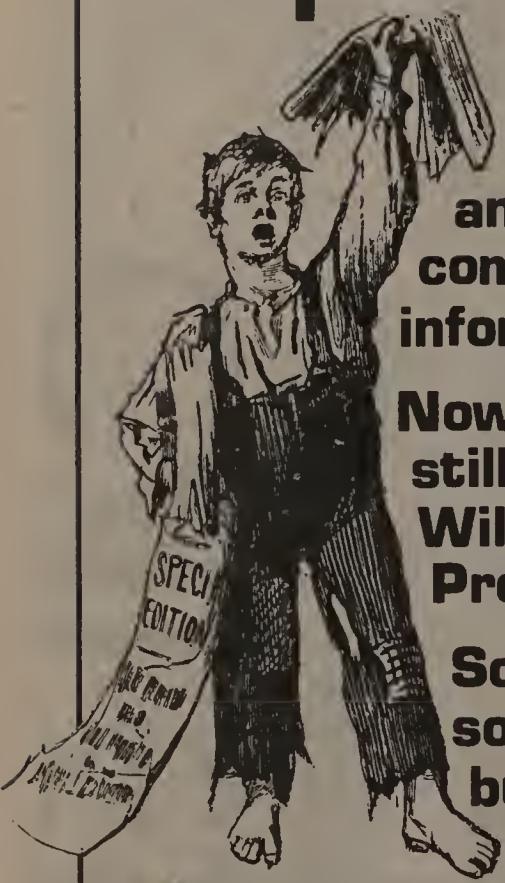
Hollywood Shuffle works best when it is off-the-cuff and disrespectful. Unfortunately the film is marred by several "fag" comments, mean-spirited anti-Semitic stereotypes and an attitude towards Black women which is so reverential and sanctimonious (and out of character with the rest of the film) as to seem mysogynistic. If you can get around these major obstacles, *Hollywood Shuffle* is pretty funny and one of the most insightful films about Blacks and the industry.

— Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Terri L. Rutter

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